

# Overview of Maine Commission on Governmental Ethics and Election Practices

## Areas in Commission's Jurisdiction

- Campaign finance disclosure (candidates, PACs, ballot question committees, party committees)
- Administering the Maine Clean Election Act
- Lobbyist disclosure (registration, monthly reporting)
- Limited "ethics" jurisdiction (receiving sources of income statements, advising Legislators on conflicts of interest and travel, *etc.*)

## Members

- David R. Hastings III (R)
- William J. Schneider (R)
- William A. Lee, Chair (D)
- Meri N. Lowry (D)
- Dennis R. Marble

## Staff

- Jonathan Wayne, Executive Director
- Paul Lavin, Assistant Director
- Erin Gordon, Candidate Registrar
- Emma Burke, Candidate Registrar
- Michael Dunn, Political Committee and Lobbyist Registrar
- Lorrie Brann, Commission Assistant

## **Improving our Operations in 2021**

- Legislators will be filing their annual sources of income statements electronically on a Commission website in February 2021
- Auditing leadership PACs for the first time
- Work with InforME to enhance our qualifying contribution (QC) website for Maine Clean Election Act candidates to provide a count of how many QCs have been submitted to the Commission and determined by the Commission staff to be valid or invalid
- Easier user interface for lobbyists to register and file monthly reports; better public access to the information by the public (exploration stage)

## **Other Projects this Winter**

- Submitted four bills to the Revisor this week
- Auditing 20% of Maine Clean Election Act candidates, randomly selected
- Rulemaking (mostly clarifications and housekeeping)
- Considering how we could improve presentation of data on our public access website (e.g., independent expenditures; expenditures by PACs and BQCs influencing ballot questions)
- Pressing our IT company to fix all bugs on eFiling website

# Maine Clean Election Act Overview 2004 - 2020

## ◆ PARTICIPATION BY LEGISLATIVE CANDIDATES

	MCEA Candidates in General Election	Total Candidates in General Election	Percentage of MCEA Candidates
<b>2004</b>	308	391	78%
<b>2006</b>	313	386	81%
<b>2008</b>	303	373	81%
<b>2010</b>	295	385	77%
<b>2012</b>	242	384	63%
<b>2014</b>	199	378	53%
<b>2016</b>	227	357	64%
<b>2018</b>	206	373	55%
<b>2020</b>	192	348	55%

## ◆ PARTICIPATION BY ELECTED LEGISLATORS

	Percentage of Legislators Who Participated in the MCEA
<b>122<sup>nd</sup> Legislature</b>	78%
<b>123<sup>rd</sup> Legislature</b>	84%
<b>124<sup>th</sup> Legislature</b>	85%
<b>125<sup>th</sup> Legislature</b>	80%
<b>126<sup>th</sup> Legislature</b>	70%
<b>127<sup>th</sup> Legislature</b>	58%
<b>128<sup>th</sup> Legislature</b>	64%
<b>129<sup>th</sup> Legislature</b>	63%
<b>130<sup>th</sup> Legislature</b>	59%

## ◆ RATE OF PARTICIPATION BY POLITICAL CAUCUS

	<b>2012</b>	<b>2014</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2020</b>
<b>House (D)</b>	<b>82%</b> (117/143)	<b>77%</b> (105/137)	<b>80%</b> (115/143)	<b>77%</b> (107/139)	<b>71%</b> (96/135)
<b>House (R)</b>	<b>41%</b> (61/148)	<b>22%</b> (32/144)	<b>45%</b> (60/134)	<b>27%</b> (37/138)	<b>32%</b> (40/126)
<b>Senate (D)</b>	<b>88%</b> (29/33)	<b>80%</b> (28/35)	<b>79%</b> (27/33)	<b>86%</b> (31/36)	<b>74%</b> (26/35)
<b>Senate (R)</b>	<b>68%</b> (23/34)	<b>43%</b> (15/35)	<b>56%</b> (19/34)	<b>56%</b> (18/32)	<b>67%</b> (22/33)
<b>Green, Unenrolled</b>	<b>46%</b> (12/26)	<b>63%</b> (19/30)	<b>54%</b> (7/13)	<b>46%</b> (13/28)	<b>42%</b> (8/19)

◆ PARTICIPATION BY CANDIDATES FOR GOVERNOR

	MCEA Candidates in Primary Election Only	MCEA Candidates in General Election
2002	James Libby (R)	Jonathan Carter (G)
2006	Peter Mills (R)	Barbara Merrill (U) Chandler Woodcock (R) Pat LaMarche (G)
2010	Patrick McGowan (D) Peter Mills (R)	Elizabeth Mitchell (D)
2014	Gubernatorial Program Suspended for 2014	
2018	Garrett Paul Mason (R) Elizabeth Sweet (D)	Teresea Hayes (U)

◆ TOTAL PAYMENTS TO MCEA CANDIDATES\*

Election Year	Legislative	Gubernatorial	Total
2000	\$965,608	N/A	\$965,608
2002	\$2,088,899	\$1,216,669	\$3,305,568
2004	\$2,799,617	N/A	\$2,799,617
2006	\$3,347,775	\$3,534,615	\$6,882,390
2008	\$2,954,035	N/A	\$2,954,035
2010	\$3,301,006	\$2,999,774	\$6,300,780
2012	\$2,102,850	N/A	\$2,102,850
2014	\$1,990,380	N/A	\$1,990,380
2016	\$3,344,830	N/A	\$3,344,830
2018	\$3,552,017	\$2,723,011	\$6,275,028
2020	\$3,868,858	N/A	\$3,868,858

\*Payment totals are amounts that candidates were authorized to spend (before any return of unspent funds).

◆ FUNDING LEVELS FOR MCEA CANDIDATES IN THE 2020 GENERAL ELECTION

	Basic Payment Only	1 Supp. Payment	2 Supp. Payments	3 Supp. Payments	4 Supp. Payments	5 Supp. Payments	6 Supp. Payments	7 Supp. Payments	8 Supp. Payments
<b>HOUSE CANDIDATES per level (Total candidates = 144)</b>	29	28	14	14	17	9	9	7	17
<b>Amount per candidate</b>	\$5,300	\$6,625	\$7,950	\$9,275	\$10,600	\$11,925	\$13,250	\$14,575	\$15,900
<b>Total amount per level</b>	\$124,048	\$185,498	\$111,300	\$129,850	\$180,200	\$107,325	\$119,250	\$102,025	\$270,300
<b>SENATE CANDIDATES per level (Total candidates = 48)</b>	5	5	3	7	6	3	2	2	15
<b>Amount per candidate</b>	\$21,175	\$25,100	\$30,175	\$35,250	\$40,325	\$45,400	\$50,475	\$55,550	\$60,625
<b>Total amount per level</b>	\$91,047	\$132,371	\$95,304	\$259,525	\$254,250	\$143,025	\$105,950	\$116,550	\$953,625
<b>Total payments to House candidates for the general election</b>	<b>Total payments to Senate candidates for the general election</b>		<b>Total payments to all MCEA candidates for the general election</b>						
\$1,329,795.53	\$2,151,646.07		\$3,481,441.60						

Note: All MCEA candidates in the 2020 general election received a basic payment for the general election. Some replacement candidates and all unopposed candidates received basic payments that were less than the amounts indicated above. Candidates in contested races were eligible for up to eight supplemental ("Supp.") payments. Unopposed candidates were not eligible for supplemental payments.